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generation of composers seldom make way, even at Festaltides, for the more vigorous works of Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven.

### Original Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MUSICAL TIMES.

Sir,—Referring to a letter, signed S. Galindo, in the April Number of the *Musical Times*, I beg to repudiate the assertion that "You rarely hear the words of a singer, in whatever language he may sing," it being quite the reverse of undeniable, as any one who has heard Signori Mario or Mongini, Mr. Sims Reeves, or Mr. Santley, or Monsieur Faure (not to mention many others) in Italian, French, or English, must surely admit.

There is no doubt that the pronunciation of words is a difficulty, and a great one; but I question much whether any critic would consider the education of a singer complete, if his pronunciation were so imperfect as to render his words unintelligible.

It is quite a common thing, at the "Scala," here, to hear persons around one repeating aloud the words sung by the singers, *especially in new operas*.

I am unaware of the bearing these remarks may have on Mr. Macfarren's article, for I had not the pleasure of seeing the number of your excellent paper containing it.

I beg to remain, Sir, yours very truly,  
Milano, 26th April, 1869. G. De L.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. DE L. (MILAN).—*We much regret that the extreme length of our Correspondent's second letter prevents the possibility of our inserting it.*

W. G. McN.—*Samuel Wesley: died 1837. Dr. Pole's Essay on the Musical Scale is appended to Sir Frederick Ouseley's Treatise on Harmony. It was re-printed for private circulation, and a copy will be found in the British Museum. The article on the Overture to Die Zauberflöte is one of a number of critical essays contributed to the programmes of concerts. It was copied into several musical journals; but we are unable to say where it can now be procured.*

The Rev. C. D. COBHAM.—261, Euston Road, N.W.

A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER.—*We should be obliged to publish a supplement, devoted to answers to correspondents, were we to reply to such questions.*

### Brief Summary of Country News.

*We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collated from the local papers, or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.*

ABINGDON.—An amateur Concert, organised by the Rev. C. D. Cobham, B.C.L., was given on the 10th ult., in the County Hall, in aid of the New National Schools, now in course of erection. There was a large and fashionable audience. Amongst the pieces worthy of notice may be mentioned the overture to *Figaro*, arranged for eight hands, and admirably played by Miss Payne, Mrs. G. Davis, Miss Stone, and Mr. F. W. Pacey. Mrs. Baker's prayer from *Mosé in Egitto* (P. F. solo), and the duet, "Flower Queen," charmingly sung by Miss Hole and Miss Payne, and encored. Mr. Pacey conducted with his usual ability.

ACCRINGTON.—The members of the St. James's Sunday School Singing Class gave a miscellaneous Concert, in the Upper School Room, on the 26th April, in aid of the funds of the Class and the News Room. The principal vocalists were Miss Harrison (who was highly successful in all her solos), Messrs. R. Yates, G. Holgate, and W. Heys. The choir was efficiently assisted by the Accrington Glee Union. Several part-songs and glees were given with much effect, and the concert was in every respect thoroughly successful. Mr. Parkinson conducted with ability, and Mr. G. Oldham accompanied at the pianoforte.

ALLOA.—The Alloa Musical Association, numbering nearly 100 performers, gave its annual Concert, on Thursday, 22nd April, in the Corn Exchange, to a large audience. The first part comprised a selection of solos and choruses from Haydn's *Creation*, all of which were exceedingly well rendered. The second part consisted of part-songs, &c., and included a duet for piano and violin (De Beriot and Benedict) and piano and harmonium (Schubert), both of which were well played. The success of the concert was mainly due to the exertions of Mr. A. Alexander (organist of St. John's Church), who conducted, and also played a violin solo with much feeling, which was encored.

BALLYMENA.—The Choral Union gave its last Concert of the season, on Friday evening, the 14th ult. The programme was well selected, and included in the first part "Bless'd are the

departed," "Hallelujah" (from *Engedi*), "Achieved is the glorious work," &c. The second part was secular. The choir throughout the evening gave ample proof of the progress it had made under the able conductorship of Mr. Cooney.

BEDFORD.—A Service of praise and prayer was held at the Wesleyan Chapel, St. Paul's, on the evening of the 28th April, for the purpose of opening the new organ, which was generously given by Mr. Frederick Howard, who has always taken the deepest interest in the public worship of the chapel. The instrument is of large dimensions and excellent quality, and in every respect reflects the utmost credit upon the builder, Mr. Wadsworth, of Manchester. During the service a selection of music was performed by the following professional gentlemen: Mr. P. H. Diemer (of Trinity Church), Mr. Ford (of Bunyan Meeting), Mr. A. Howard (of Kempston Church), Mr. Kipps (of St. Paul's Church, Greenwich), Mr. Rose (of St. Paul's and St. Peter's, Bedford), and Mr. Wadsworth, the builder of the instrument.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Tuesday evening, the 4th ult., an Entertainment was given in connection with the Warwick Street Sunday Schools. The programme consisted of songs, duets, &c., the principal vocalists being Miss Austin, Miss Pratt, Mrs. Pratt, Messrs. Salt, Stack, Pick, Jolly, Bosward, and Austin. Mr. Smith played a solo on the concertina, Mr. W. Masefield, Jun., acted as accompanist, and Mr. H. Parkes conducted. The concert afforded the utmost satisfaction to a large audience.

BRIGHTON.—The annual Choral Festival, in connection with the Brighton and Sussex Choral Association, took place at the Dome Assembly Room, on the 5th ult. The vocalists numbered nearly 300, and consisted of the combined choirs from Brighton, Horsham, Lewes, Hurslipoint, &c., each of which towns Mr. Walter Newport, the conductor, has been constant in visiting for the purpose of training. The principal vocalists were Fraulein Mehlhorn, Miss Edith Wynne, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. The harpists engaged included Mr. J. Balsir Chatterton and Mr. John Cheshire; the new organ was presided over by Mr. Hiles, and the grand pianoforte by Signor Lardelli. The most attractive features in the vocal portion of the programme were Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer" (the solo part excellently given by Fraulein Mehlhorn), "Softly sighs" (sung with much effect by Miss Edith Wynne), a ballad by Lardelli (rendered by Mr. Vernon Rigby in his best style), and several choral pieces, which were received with well merited applause. An attractive feature in the concert was a grand dramatic piece for harp, organ and pianoforte, composed by Mr. Cheshire, which was eminently successful. Mr. Hiles's organ solos were also thoroughly appreciated; and the concert afforded the utmost satisfaction to a large audience.

CAMBRIDGE.—The opening of the St. John's College New Chapel, on Wednesday, the 12th ult., was marked by a most imposing ceremony. The sentence of consecration having been read by the Rev. E. B. Sparke, it was signed by the Bishop, after which the 100th Psalm was sung by the whole congregation. At the conclusion of the sermon, an Anthem, composed expressly for the occasion by Professor Bennett, was given with much effect, Dr. Garrett most ably presiding at the organ. As might be expected from the reputation of its composer, this work is written in the purest ecclesiastical style, the sacred character of the words being reflected with the utmost fidelity in the music. The service was concluded by a very excellent rendering of the "Hallelujah" Chorus. At the evening service, Professor Bennett's Anthem was repeated.

CANTERBURY.—Mr. Longhurst's annual concert, on the 26th April, in the Music Hall, was fully and fashionably attended. The principal vocalists were Miss Edith Wynne, Miss Fanny Holland, and Mr. Vernon Rigby, all of whom were highly effective in their vocal solos. A feature in the instrumental selection was Beethoven's Sonata in G (Op. 30), for pianoforte and violin, which was excellently given by Mr. H. Weist Hill and Mr. Longhurst; and Mr. T. Harper's trumpet was heard to the utmost advantage in the *obligato* to "Let the bright Seraphim," which was sung by Miss Edith Wynne. Mr. Longhurst (who conducted with much ability) may be congratulated on the success of this, his twentieth annual concert in Canterbury.

CLIFTON.—The Royal Tyrolese Singers gave three Concerts, under the auspices of Mr. James C. Daniel, at the Victoria Rooms, on Monday evening and Wednesday afternoon and evening, the 10th and 12th ult. The performances were all well and fashionably attended.

COXHOE.—On Whit Monday, the opening of a new organ in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, was inaugurated by Mr. John Lambert, of Durham, who showed the capabilities of the instrument in a well-chosen selection from the works of Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn. In the evening there was a grand concert of sacred music. Mr. John Lambert presided at the organ, and also joined the other members of the Cathedral choir in several vocal pieces. There was a very full attendance.

CRAYFORD.—On the 30th April an amateur Concert was given, at the new School Room, under the conductorship of the Rev. J. B. Ward, who also accompanied most of the pieces on the pianoforte. The programme contained a selection from the *Macbeth* music (usually, but erroneously, ascribed to Locke), the solos in which were excellently rendered by Miss Ida Thorne, Messrs. Lloyd and Hudson. In the miscellaneous part pianoforte solos were well played by Mr. E. Lewis and Miss Louisa Horner; and songs were given with much effect by Miss Helieler and Miss Ida Thorne, the last-named lady creating a marked impression in